



THE Spruce

Summer 2015 NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 2276 ▪ Huntington Station ▪ Shelton, Connecticut 06484

Shelton Bear Sightings

Bear sightings in Shelton increased significantly in 2015, including a mother with a cub, and also a young male that was spending a lot of time in yards at bird feeders. The bear population is expected to keep increasing. *****PLEASE REMOVE BIRD FEEDERS between March and November*****, and eliminate other potential food sources around homes, such as unsecured garbage or pet food.

There is usually no reason to call the Police unless a bear is behaving aggressively (including approaching or following people), which is very rare. Black Bears are normally extremely shy and avoid confrontation. Unlike coyote, black bears are mostly vegetarian and do not hunt for pet dogs and cats. Rather, they are looking for bird seed and garbage. If a bear is in your yard and you want it removed, you can probably do so by standing in your doorway and yelling while banging some pots and pans. People should not worry about being in the woods or going for a hike. Dogs are at risk if they charge and corner a bear, but bears will usually try to escape before attacking.

Although most bears are furtive, nocturnal, and rarely seen, an occasional individual may learn it finds better food around houses and then it might get used to being around people. This individual is more likely to cause property damage, disturb residents, and in very rare cases, become aggressive. Bears that show signs of aggression (like approaching humans) will be euthanized by the CT DEEP. It is up to all Shelton residents to prevent this from happening by ensuring there is no food for bears on their property.

More bear in our future: In 2015, there was a dramatic escalation of bear sightings in Shelton, including a mother with a cub, which means bear are now breeding locally. Based on the sighting dates, there appear to have been at least four bear in Shelton in mid-May, with a few more just over the border in Stratford.

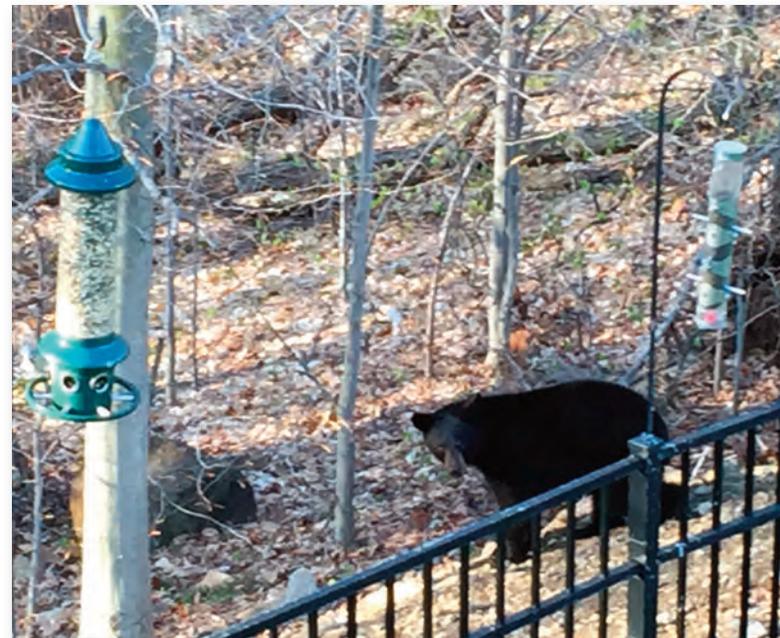
Connecticut's bear population has been expanding out from the Northwest hills. For years, Shelton residents have reported seeing bears on occasion, but these appeared to be young males passing through as they looked for new territory. That a female with a cub has been spotted means they are now breeding here, and the bear population will continue to rise.

Shelton does have good habitat available for bear. These bear should not present any problem for people so long as residents refrain from setting out food for them.

The 2015 "Shelton Bear": Many of the May 2015 sightings were

of a single young male that has become habituated to people and is less shy than normal. (There is even a Facebook page for the bear). This bear was spending much time in back yards looking for bird feeders and unsecured garbage, sometimes going up on porches, looking in windows, and in one case apparently taking a nap. This bear received a large gash on its left rear quarters, which is useful for identification. Although the bear is more tame than what we like to see, it has not exhibited any aggressive behaviors, and has left when people yelled at him. This bear needs to be discouraged from back yards. Remove food sources before bears visit, and try to shoo the bear away while you remain in the safety of your home. Loud noises - horns, pots and pans, etc. may do the trick. People are asked to make sure their bird feeders have been removed, garbage is secured in a building, certain food scraps are not placed on compost piles (fruits, melon, corn, bread), and food is not left outdoors for pets or wild animals.

Black bear attacks are very rare, but they do happen. If a black bear is approaching or following people, contact the Police, warn others, and leave immediately. If confronted by an aggressive black bear, do not run. Running may incite the bear, and bear can easily outrun people. If you are in a group, do not split up. Most black bear charges are bluffing. Try tossing an article of clothing or a pack on the ground as a distraction. Try to place an object like a tree between you and the bear. If the worst happens, and a black bear makes physical contact, fight back aggressively by punching. Do not play dead (that's for Grizzlies).



Community Service Projects!

Calling all Scouts, Students, and Folks Who Care About Our Community.

The Shelton Land Conservation Trust is thankful for our volunteers who have worked tirelessly throughout the years to preserve, protect and care for the properties we own. Listed below are projects we could use some help with. These may qualify as service projects for students and scouts. For more information please contact Joe Welsh, Land Trust President at slctjoew@sbcglobal.net

Bushinsky Arboretum

1. Mulch the flower garden
2. Remove Japanese Barberry
3. Construct a boardwalk over stream
4. Create a cut-your-own flower area

Lane Street Meadow

1. Build and install bluebird nesting boxes.

Mohegan Road Property

1. Clear invasive plant species
2. Plant native shrubs
3. Make a walking path along stream.

Theile Woods

1. Remove Japanese Barberry Invasive Plants
2. Pick up litter on property.

Deflippo Property

1. Install a trail and create a sitting area.

Cobblestone Drive Property

1. Remove invasive plants
2. Construct a trail along the river's edge
3. Plant native plants that will serve as a riparian buffer along the river.

Commerce Drive Property

1. Update sign kiosk with new map and river information.
2. Expand trail along river
3. Clear trees that fell down during storm along trail.

Nicholedale Farm Property

1. Remove old barbed wire.
2. Spread wood chips along path in Scout Camp.
3. Create a vegetable garden area near kiosk.
4. Build and install bluebird nesting boxes.
5. Clear sticks and logs from stream.
6. Re-establish Willis Woods Trail.



It Was a Clean Sweep!



Land Trust Brewster Triangle Lot and road along Birdseye and Rt 110

Beth and Lia Monteiro, Joe, Cora, Ryan, and Ella Welsh - Lots of alcohol bottles and little blue pills.



Fred and Christine Barmer cleaned up two bags of garbage along Bushinsky Arboretum



Pat Gajdosik, Marge Estock, Art Carotenuto, Ed McCreery, Joe and Ryan Welsh - Rt 110 along Nicholdale. 7 Large bags of garbage.



Bags of Trash!



Thank You! To All Who Donated to The Great Give!

It was a great 2 days and we are happy to report that The Great Give matched our donations totaling over \$1700. Thank you to all who participated and hope next year we can participate again!

Organic Growing with Guy

Early this spring the Trust, following one of its goals to connect people with its lands, and support the local farmers, approached Guy Beardsley to assist with that goal. Guy is a certified organic Farmer, and the owner of Guy's Eco Garden. For five years now, Guy has been farming a portion of Land Trust Property, producing organically grown vegetables. During this period we've not only seen the former Brewster Triangle Lot transformed into a field of viable farmland, but also been privileged to learn more about organic farming.

We've been so impressed with the process, that we decided to co-sponsor a program where Guy could share his expertise with those interested in growing organically. And so with the assistance of Guy and his farm staff, the "Organic Growing with Guy" program was born. It is a 4-part program from seed to harvest, designed for individuals with an interest in planting a garden of their own at home. It is free, but Space is limited, so interested participants are treated on a first-come, first-serve basis

Participating gardeners will learn things such as testing and amending soil, seed preparation, planting, bugs and diseases, care throughout the growing season, cultivation, and harvesting techniques. Although two sessions have already taken place, it's not too late to consider taking advantage of this learning opportunity. Future dates will be announced based on the growing season. The Shelton Land Trust values the role of our local growers, and the farmland they keep free from development.

In the event you missed it, session one had a huge turnout, and during the 2-hour session, folks eagerly learned how to apply this knowledge to their home gardens or their community Garden Plots. Topics of

the Day included a discussion on the soil, soil sampling, and where to send samples for a complete analysis. Also discussed were composting, and nutrients to be added to amend the soil. The group learned about the planting process, and got to load up jiffy pots with a soil mix, planted seeds, and watered them using a special organic fish oil emulsion. They also learned the importance of using a garden log for record keeping, and labeling of each tray planted. Armed with a wealth of new information from Guy and his staff, the group went home to begin gardening organically.

Session Two followed about a month and a half later, and included some new arrivals as well as several returnees. First item on the agenda was a visit to the greenhouse, where the shelves were covered with various plants in different stages of growth, that were ready for planting in the field. Some of the attendees discussed the items they planted, and learned about a couple of problematic pests, including the flea beetle which could be seen munching on eggplant leaves. From the greenhouse, the group moved out to the fields to check on the tomatoes, beets, and garlic plants. Plant spacing, watering, fertilizing, and weeding were discussed, as well as keeping oneself protected from the sun's harmful rays. The class finished up with an in-depth discussion on the different types of organic amendments and their uses. It was a great day down on the farm.

Session Three will follow in August. The exact date, which depends on the progress of the growing season, will be announced as soon as possible. Information about the session will be posted via email alerts, on the Trust's "Facebook" page, the Web Site, and if possible, printed fliers. Until then... happy gardening!



Land Trust Participates in Memorial Day Parade

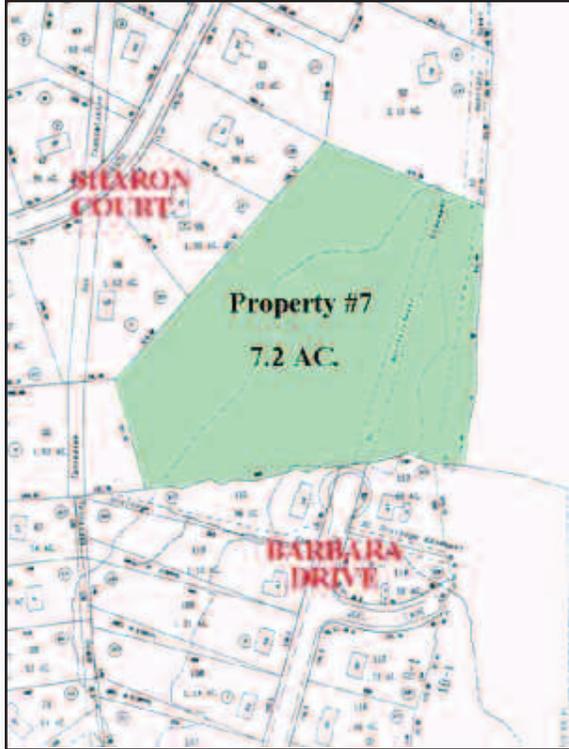
Members of the Land Trust built a float for the 2015 Derby-Shelton Memorial Day Parade to raise awareness about the Trust's activities in preserving open space, and to pay tribute to the families of our members who have served our Country. Two large posters were printed utilizing donated graphics by Carey Tedesco of Connecticut Design Lab inviting people to visit our properties. Randy Szkola of Hilltop Nurseries loaned us several plants to help green-up the float. While debating the size of the posters (big vs small), President Joe Welsh was overheard saying "go big, or go home". (Not really.) The posters were printed on durable plastic board and will be able to be reused for multiple purposes. Included on the float were several humorous references to the many recent bear sightings in Shelton. Can you spot any? Land Trust members contributed photos of family loved ones who had served in World War II and the Korean War for a "Memorial Wall of Tribute" along the back-side of the trailer. Many people along the parade route shouted out hollers of support for the Trust and/or the preservation of open space.



Getting to Know Our Parcels:

Shelton Land Conservation Trust

Parcel #11



All that certain piece or parcel of land situated in the City of Shelton, County of Fairfield and State of Connecticut, containing 7.2 acres, plus or minus, designated "open space" on a map entitled, "Ivy Lane Estates, Inc., Shelton, Connecticut, March 17, 1978, revised through June 13, 1978" being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the Southeast corner of land owned by now or formerly Shelton Land Conservation Trust, Inc. Thence proceeding Westerly along land owned by now or formerly of M. & C. Wieziolowski, Barbara Drive, and land owned by J. & A. Wipneca, each in part, 590 feet, plus or minus.

Thence proceeding Northerly, Northeasterly and Southeasterly through land of Ivy Lane Estates, Inc., the following courses: N 00-33' -10" W a distance of 224.97 feet; N 56-03' -45" E a distance of 611.88 feet; S 53-52' - 45 E a distance of 319.30 feet.

Thence proceeding Southwesterly along land owned by now or formerly Shelton Land Conservation Trust, Inc., W. F. Healey and H. Gazer, and Shelton Land Conservation Trust, Inc., each in part, 520 feet, plus or minus, to point and place beginning.

Subject to a 30 foot sanitary easement to the City of Shelton along the Easterly boundary of the herein described parcel.

Would you like to become a land monitor? It's easy and rewarding. Just send a quick email to Bob Liddel:

rliddel@aol.com

We're on FACEBOOK!



Please "like" our page and you can keep informed about upcoming events and Land Trust news. Search Shelton Land Trust.

Shelton Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

P.O. Box 2276 • Huntington Station • Shelton, Connecticut 06484

Have you paid your 2015 dues yet?

President

Joseph Welsh

Vice Presidents

Philip Jones

Edward McCreery

Secretary

Mary Jane Liddel

Treasurer

Paul Uhrynowski

Board Members

Robert Carreau

Marge Estok

Pat Gajdosik

Hank Lauriat

Jackie Lauriat

Robert Liddel

Bruce Nichols

Margaret Paulson

Joseph Palmucci

Donald Pendagast

2015 General Meetings

2nd Wednesday of the month @ 7pm

June 10

Aug 15

Sept 9

Oct 14

Nov 11

All general meetings will take place at the Shelton Community Center

41 Church St.

Shelton, CT 04484

To be better informed about Land Trust activities and local conservation issues, why not join the Trust's email alert list? To be added, simply send an email to slctjoew@sbcglobal.net

